

Appn. No.: 09/821,338
Amdt. Dated April 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated January 13, 2004

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An envelope-filling station having comprising:

an envelope-filling bench, which is added onto
a push-in station having a push-in arrangement for pushing enclosures into
envelopes, of a mail processing machine, in which
enclosures or sets of enclosures are conveyed into the push-in station by
means of a conveyor and are pushed into envelopes by means of a push-in
arrangement, said envelopes being conveyed by means of an envelope-conveying
arrangement, on the envelope-filling bench, conveying envelopes into the push-in
station into a position opposite the push-in arrangement and being opened there and
held ready for receiving the enclosures or sets of enclosures and, once filled, being
conveyed further;

wherein the envelope-conveying arrangement contains comprises
a circulating envelope-conveying belt, of which the a top strand is guided over
the envelope-filling bench and is oriented transversely to the a push-in direction, in that
a roller bar equipped with spring-mounted rollers can arranged to be lowered
and raised onto the top side of the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt, and
raised from it, in a controlled manner, in that
stop means are proximal to the push-in station arranged along contiguous to
the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt and can controlled to be brought into an

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active position directly above the level of the envelope-filling bench, and removed therefrom into an inactive position, in a controlled manner, such that envelopes which have been conveyed up are brought to a standstill in a position opposite the push-in arrangement with the stop means active and with the roller bar lowered, are filled with the roller bar raised and are conveyed further with the stop means inactive and the roller bar lowered again, and

wherein in that at the-a beginning of the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt, by means of an auxiliary conveying arrangement, envelopes can be conveyed up separately against in particular adjustable stops from a horizontal direction perpendicular to the running direction of the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt, such that subregions of the respective envelope which has run up against the further stops -extend into the-a gap between the raised roller bar and the beginning of the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt such that, when the roller bar is lowered against the top strand of the circulating envelope-conveying belt, the relevant envelope is drawn in front of the push-in arrangement in the conveying direction of said envelope-conveying belt.

2. (Currently Amended) An envelope-filling station according to Claim 1, wherein the operation of feeding the separated envelopes out of an envelope-separating station from a horizontal direction perpendicular to the running direction of the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt takes place by means of an auxiliary conveying belt and abutment rollers or abutment belts interacting therewith.

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3. (Currently Amended) An env lop -filling station according to Claim 1, wherein the roller bar has a beam-like carrier housing which is coupled to drive means for raising and lowering it and on which ~~spring tongues or pairs of leaf spring elements~~ are anchored, these retaining bearings for supporting on both sides the journals of disc-like, comparatively large-diameter rollers.

4. (Currently Amended) An envelope-filling station according to Claim 3, wherein at least one of the ~~spring tongues or leaf spring pairs~~ elements bears, on spring sections extending from the anchoring locations, starting from the bearings, suction-cup arrangements which are connected to a vacuum source via flexible vacuum lines and controllable valves and of which the suction-cup openings, with the roller bar raised off from the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt, extend down at least to the level of the lowermost circumferential regions of the rollers, and with the roller bar lowered onto the top strand of the envelope-conveying belt and the rollers loaded, with ~~spring-tongue~~ deformation or leaf spring deformation taking place in the process, are raised by way of the spring sections, above the level of the lowermost circumferential regions of the rollers, the suction-cup arrangement serving for opening and keeping open the envelopes during the actuation of the push-in arrangement.

5. (Currently Amended) An envelope-filling station according to Claim 3, wherein the carrier housing of the roller bar and the ~~spring tongues or leaf spring pairs~~ elements are designed in one piece, in particular as a plastic injection moulding.